

Ephesians 5:11, 13 – Witch or What – Part 2 – 07-23-1972 & 07-30-1972

Call to Worship: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to His name, to declare His steadfast love in the morning and His faithfulness by night.

C 1 to Confession: Know that the Lord is ~~good~~ God! It is He that made us and we are His; we are ~~his~~ his people and the sheep of His pasture. God showed His love for us that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. God fulfills the desires of all who fear Him; He also hears their cry and saves them. Let us confess our sin.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: How precious is thy steadfast love, O God! The children of men take refuge in the shadow of thy wings. They feast on the abundance of thy house, and thou givest them the river of thy ()ights. For with thee is the fountain of life; in thy light do we see light, and have forgiveness.

Amen.

Out of An Abundant Heart, I speak.

Text: Luke 6:45b "For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

Need to preach this one.

Watch and Shirley, Joe, Paul.

Ant at picnic.

week, choir, (frog throat). to correct problem
Found secret, I was called, what wrong churches.

Denom. ministers wrong.

not taught in seminary. must involve laymen.

what do when wrong? Ask forgiveness. I wrong.

Damit Jones. Laymen must have chance, be part.

Can't tell must show. airplane example.

If want to be part then lets do something about

If not then at least stand back, pray read word/

Let's get together, perhaps call.

I have a dream.

Gil Stricklin, clock, drinking man, land, wealth
etc.

This I want to do and it will take you and I
working at it together.

To be Christian requires, Read Bible, Pray,
Witness.

Witness, missing and needed, most vital part.

Need to start and must begin before too late.

This God has laid on my heart, and this I must
do.

Alexander The Great.

Call to Worship: Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Call to Confession: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us come in confession.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. Amen



TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph C. Link, Pastor
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP July 23, 1972

The Organ Prelude

*The Hymn of Praise 299

*The Call to Worship

*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Lord, we believe in thee; help thou our unbelief. Lord, we love thee; yet not with perfect hearts. Lord, we long for thee; yet not with our full strength. Lord, we trust in thee; yet not with our whole selves. O Lord, our Christ, may we have thy mind and thy spirit. Make us contrite that we might be renewed from our sinful selves into new men and new women, according to thy will and for the sake of thy glory. Amen.

*The Kyrie

*The Assurance of Pardon

The Scripture----Ephesians 5:6-17 6:10-17
John 3:16-21

*The Gloria Patri

The Pastoral Prayer

The Announcements

The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

*The Doxology

*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer

The Hymn of Meditation 290

The Sermon----"Witch? Or What?" Part II

The Sermon Prayer

*The Hymn of Response 281

*The Benediction

*The Threefold Amen

*The Postlude

*Congregation Stands

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH DAY. The annual Perry-Cumberland County Youth Day sponsored by P.S.S.S.A. will be held Wed. July 26th at the Carlisle Fish and Game Association on the road between Carlisle and Mechanisburg. The bus will leave New Bloomfield at 1:45 PM and proceed to Alinda. Approximate time of return to New Bloomfield will be 9:00 PM. A small charge of 50¢ per person, payable when you get on the bus.

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP July 30, 1972

The Organ Prelude

*The Hymn of Praise

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*The Call to Worship

*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy steadfast love; according to thy abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against thee only have we sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight. So that thou art justified in thy sentence, and blameless in thy judgment. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Cast us not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of thy salvation, and uphold us with thy willing Spirit. Amen.

*The Kyrie

*The Assurance of Pardon

The Scripture----Ephesians 5:6-17 6:10-17
John 3:16-21

*The Gloria Patri

The Pastoral Prayer

The Announcements

The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

*The Doxology

*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer

The Hymn of Meditation 282

The Sermon----"Witch? Or What?" Part II

The Sermon Prayer

*The Hymn of Response

243

*The Benediction

*The Threefold Amen

*The Postlude

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note that next Sunday August 6th the hour of worship will change in both churches. Christ Church will worship at 9:00 A.M. and Trinity Church will worship at 10:30 A.M.

This Wednesday in the church school rooms of Trinity Church, another meeting will be held at 7:30 P.M. This will be the second meeting held in conjunction with evangelism in our parish and it is open to any and all who are interested.

Next Sunday August 6th the Rev. Larry Hummer will be installed as the pastor of the Mansville--New Bloomfield Lutheran Charge. You are all cordially invited to join with our church neighbors in their joy of calling a new pastor. *IN CHRIST LUTHERAN*

PartII

EPH

"Witch? Or What?"

Text: Ephesians 5:11,13, "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them." "But when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light."

John 3:19-21 ~~"And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does what is true comes to the light, that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been wrought in God."~~

Last week you will recall, ~~xxx~~ we talked about Wizards, witches, mediums, spiritualists and so on and we looked at the story of Saul and the witch of Endor. This week we will look at this subject from a New Testament standpoint.

There is a story found in the Gospels about Jesus going up into a mountain and taking Peter, James and John with him. The story relates that while he was there, Elijah and Moses appeared to Him and Jesus talked with them. The disciples eyes were heavy with sleep Luke tells us, but they remained awake and saw this event take place. Afterward they mentioned to Jesus that 3 booths should be built there for Jesus, Moses and Elijah. And a voice came out of the cloud acclaiming Jesus as His Son.

This story we all know as the tranfiguration, because of the report that Jesus appearance was changed before their very eyes. But more importantly it gives us a clue to the fact that there is a world beyond ours. Perhaps this world never became more real to man, than when Jesus came along. Jesus spoke to Satan, the devil, he never gave in to him, nor did he ever assume that this being did not have power of his own. But Jesus personally refused to give in to him.

Jesus also showed the people of his day the reality of demons. He was recognized by these demons as well, when they cried out to him on one occasion, "Jesus of Nazareth, what have you to do with us? Have you come to destroy us?" But we are too enlightened in our day to believe that there are evil spirits alive and active in the world today.

Jesus also dealt with dead people. His transfiguration is one example, ^{Also} ~~and~~ Lazarus, ^{Also} the man who was the only support of his widowed mother being carried out of town for burial, ^{Then} and Jarius's daughter are ^{All} ~~also~~ examples of Jesus dealings with dead people. He had the power to reach into the world beyond and snatch back those, whom he willed. The very day he died, many of the dead arose and walked around Jerusalem. He Himself came back from the grave, and as the disciple John said, "Our eyes saw him, our ears heard him, and our hands handled him." He appeared to them, coming into a room that was closed and bolted, without making an entrance ~~into~~ through a window or door. Yet he was of similar substance as we because Thomas felt his hands and feet for the nail wounds, and the spear wound in his side.

After his ascension, Paul saw him on his way to Damascus. Stephen saw him before he met his death as a martyr. Paul delivered a girl sorceress from the exploitation of her owners, and the owners raised such a fuss, ~~that~~ the apostles were arrested. A man named Elymas another sorcerer, was trying to undo the work of Paul and Barnabas, and Paul struck him blind for a period of time.

You may be thinking that all of these tales are lovely little stories. You may say they are myths and rather incredible, but are they less believable than Jeane Dixon, and her predictions of what the stars and planets hold for your destiny today or in the future? Would you instead believe in Anton LaVey's church of Satan in San Francisco, and ridicule the idea of Satan in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus, or of Satan in the life of Hitler or Stalin, or Satan alive and doing business in the lives of thousands of people today?

There is an unseen world and you can choose to believe it or not. But it is a world that contains not only the presence of God, but the influence of Satan as well. The goal of Satan is to make a mockery of the existence of God. He rules in a kingdom of darkness, in a climate

or perhaps I should say, an area, that is quite different and apart from that of God. Jesus called Satan a "liar, and the father of lies."

Paul admonishes us, "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them." Show them up for what they are, bring them out into the light, ^{for} as he goes on, "When anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything visible is light."

~~When we speak of light we must~~ Now let's take a case in point and look at it. I am sure we are all aware that Jeane Dixon predicted the assassination of John F. Kennedy. This event made her world famous and so when she makes a pronouncement, it is looked upon as ~~being~~ having a good possibility of coming true. You may choose to believe that she has certain powers that permit her to foresee the future, but I for one believe that she is no better than any other fortune teller or reader of tea leaves, or coffee grounds, or crystal balls. My pet theory about her as well as all mediums is one that cannot be proven, but there has been considerable investigation done along these lines and the area is still being researched.

Shakespeare wrote the lines in Hamlet, "There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so." The author of Proverbs ^{he} writes, "As ~~xxxxx~~ thinketh in his heart, so is he." Jesus when he had healed a paralytic man, was aware of the scribes talking about this ^{so CALLED} "blasphemy", and we read that he knew their thoughts and said to them, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?" Now what all of this amounts to, is that it is a possibility to transfer thoughts both good and evil to the minds of people who are receptive to them.

Have you ever thought about a certain person you have not seen for sometime, only to have them appear shortly thereafter? I am talking about persons who are still alive. Many times I have ~~thought~~ thought about a certain sports figure, or a movie star, and pondered that I have not seen that individual in a long while, and perhaps that very day will

read of that person in the newspaper or see them on tv. There is a Roman Catholic monk this very day, who is working on a theory similar to this. He has pronounced that each individual who walks upon this earth, leaves behind a picture of himself by his words, his actions and so on. ~~He has been engaged for years in trying~~ By using these words and actions in a certain way it is possible to produce a picture of that person, even though that person may have been dead for thousands of years. He has been engaged for a great number of years in trying to come up with a picture of Jesus Christ. I recently heard on the radio that he has a picture of him that has been compiled in this way.

Now if this is possible with words, why then could it not be possible with thoughts to imprint on someone's mind, someone who is so inclined, to kill a certain individual? Now I am not saying that Jeane Dixon deliberately sent out her thoughts to have president Kennedy killed. But I am saying that innocently her thoughts may have triggered this very act.

She has been given credit for predicting the recent flood and has said we will have another one. You or I could predict things such as this but no one would listen, because we do not have the fame or notoriety to be heard. But what is so often overlooked about these people, is the fact that they merely use logic for their reasoning. For instance what ~~ix~~ would be a very good prediction as far as weather goes in certain areas in June? Why hurricanes of course. So what is the logical aftermath of hurricanes? Flooding and destruction of property by water and wind. So any fortune teller worth his salt is going to predict there will be a flood at this time of the year, and it is even a safe bet to predict there will be one 20 days following the first flood as she has done.

So really there is no mystery connected to it, and she is not really connected to a source that gives her this information. At least I do not believe it to be God telling her these things, and I might concede

that Satan is perhaps involved. *EVEN THO SHE IS REPORTED TO BE VERY RELIGIOUS*

John I believe spells this out very fully in the 3rd chapter of his Gospel. "And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light." Could we not say this is still true today? Could we not say just from our observation of life around us, that mankind is only concerned with the quest of things out of the ordinary? It ~~has to be~~ ^{must} be bizarre before it is news. It must be spectacular before it is printed or shown on TV. We are past the stage of being awed as we once were. During the historic landing of Neil Armstrong and the other ~~man~~ ^{ASTRONAUT} on the moon for the first time, I can recall that Shirley and I were practically glued to our seats because of the world shattering event taking place before our eyes. But our children were bored more or less, because they had seen these space shots in school and it was sort of old stuff to them. Other parents have told me the same thing as well.

If it isn't completely out of the ordinary, we are not interested. So people are searching for newer and more exciting ways to spend their lives. And the unfortunate thing about all of it is, they are searching in the areas of darkness instead of looking in the light.

All of the evil in the world is mostly done at night. Most robberies are at night, most muggings are at night, ^{MURDER} As soon as the daylight fades, all of the ~~wierdoe's~~ ^{AND} seem to crawl out of the woodwork. [^] Why is this so? Because under cover of darkness, ~~many~~ things can be hidden. Again John says, "For every one who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does what is true comes to the light, that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been wrought in God."

Dr. Paul J. Achtemeier ~~the New Testament~~ professor of New Testament at Lancaster Theological Seminary has said, that in the next 10 or 20 years, the biggest foe the church will have to fight, is

not people dropping out or failing to join. But it will be astrology, horoscopes, Satanism, withcraft and all of the other works of darkness. I believe we need to begin choosing up sides, and I beleive we need to begin to day. I do not think we can afford to wait 10 or 20 years until we are completely in the midst of this dilemma. We must act now. We must choose whether we will seek the light which is Jesus Christ and His kingdom, or whether we will choose the darkness, which is Satan and his kingdom.

If we can look upon horoscopes and star readings and all of this jazz as merely so much baloney, and not put any trust or stock in them, then perhaps we can weather the storm. But the real danger lies in the fact that someone will tell us in a horoscope to looks out today because tragedy may strike, and we step off the curb and just ~~get~~ miss getting hit, and so Jeane Dixon was right. From then on we are followers of Jeane Dixon and not Jesus Christ. This may be a little strong perhaps, but I believe we need to follow wherever our allegiance lies. If it lies in the kingd~~om~~ of Light, then we must follow Jesus. If we seek to follow the kingdom of Darkness, then we will put our faith in Jeane Dixon and all of her ilke.

"But no man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You annot serve God and Mammon," saith the Lord. Will it be Witch? Or What? Will it be God? You make the choice.

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
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Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.